

THE CLAIMS

1-5. (cancelled)

6. (previously presented) A thumbwheel input device for a handheld electronic device with a housing, in an inclined orientation, comprising:

- a. a wheel that has an axle rotating around a first axis of rotation, and that partially protrudes through the device housing on an incline;
- b. a rotating encoder switch that receives a first input when the wheel rotates about its first axis, and that has an aperture in which the wheel axle sits;
- c. a printed circuit board with a first side and second side, with the rotating encoder switch is attached to the first side of the printed circuit board;
- d. a holder, having a second axis of rotation, that contains the wheel, the printed circuit board, and the rotating encoder switch, and that is oriented on an incline;
- e. a tactile switch, attached to the second side of the printed circuit board, for receiving a second input; and
- f. a stop that engages the tactile switch for receiving a second input about the second axis of rotation.

7. (previously presented) The thumbwheel input device of claim 6 wherein the stop is an arm attached to the bottom of the holder that extends up toward the tactile switch.

8. (previously presented) The thumbwheel device of claim 6 wherein the stop is a protrusion from the device housing that extends up toward the tactile switch.

9. (previously presented) A thumbwheel input device for a handheld electronic device with a housing, in an inclined orientation, comprising:

- a. a wheel that is rotatable about a first axis of rotation and that partially protrudes through the device housing on an incline;
- b. a printed circuit board;
- c. a rotating encoder switch attached to the printed circuit board and operatively engaged with the wheel to receive an input when the wheel rotates about its first axis; and
- d. a holder, having a second axis of rotation, that holds the wheel, the printed circuit board, and the rotating encoder switch, and that is oriented on an incline.

10. (previously presented) The thumbwheel input device of claim 9 further comprising a tactile switch attached to the printed circuit board for movement about the second axis of rotation with the wheel, the printed circuit board, and the rotating encoder switch.

11. (previously presented) The thumbwheel input device of claim 10 further comprising a stop that engages the tactile switch to actuate the tactile switch and to limit movement of the tactile switch about the second axis of rotation.

12. (previously presented) The thumbwheel input device of claim 11 wherein the stop is an arm that is attached to the bottom of the holder and that extends up toward the tactile switch.

13. (previously presented) The thumbwheel input device of claim 11 wherein the stop is a protrusion from the device housing that extends up toward the tactile switch.

14-16 (Cancelled)